



# Town of Burgaw

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Kenneth Cowan  
Mayor

Howard Walker  
Mayor Pro Tem

Commissioners:  
Louis Davis  
Jan Dawson  
Wilfred Robbins  
John Wharton

Chad McEwen  
Town Manager

Sylvia Raynor  
Town Clerk

Robert Kenan  
Town Attorney

July 19, 2011

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile USA currently before the Federal Communications Commission.

I am deeply concerned about the affect of high unemployment on the Town of Burgaw and the state of North Carolina as a whole. We rank above the national average in unemployment, and I believe this is a result not only of the recent housing crisis, but also a lack of innovation that is affecting the United States. Historically the development of the nation's economy has always been connected with major improvements in infrastructure in transportation, communications or agriculture, to name a few. Innovation led to new processes and products; this in turn led to consumer demand and greater employment opportunities.

Although, I am not a communications expert, I know that technology constantly evolves and that there are major improvements going on in this industry today. The most promising improvements seem to be in the area of high-speed wireless broadband such as the 4<sup>th</sup> Generation network AT&T and T-Mobile hope to expand.

I believe government institutions should encourage these developments. We want equal opportunity when it comes to network access and this merger would offer a greater chance at that. If approved, their plan is to provide high-speed mobile Internet access to 97.3% of Americans.

This merger would offer the Town of Burgaw and the surrounding community new opportunities for growth and a chance to keep up with the remainder of the country in respect to wireless Internet access. I appreciate the efforts of the FCC and look for a speedy approval of the proposed merger.

Sincerely,

Kenneth T. Cowan, Mayor

CC: Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Representative Mike McIntyre  
Senator Richard Burr  
Senator Kay Hagan